



Mock Interview Questions and Answers

Remember: All the answers given below are just suggestions and might not be applicable to you.

[13 Dental Nurse Interview Questions \(With Tips and Example Answers\) | Indeed.com UK](#)

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CULTURAL FIT

Tell me more about yourself:

I am currently studying for my NEBDN diploma with SmileWisdom Academy, which is an online course I started in

I have always worked well in a team, which was especially highlighted to me during my A levels, where a lot of group practical work was done, developing my communication skills and working well under pressure. I found a deeper interest in dentistry during a workshop that was provided by my college where dental care professionals talked about their journeys to their roles and the different routes that can be taken.

Looking forward, I would like to develop my practical skills and gain experience within a workplace where I can be in an agile environment, which I know is a key value to this company and be able to confidently grow and become a valued member of a team to the best of my ability, which brings me here today for this great opportunity.

MOTIVATION

Why do you want to become a Dental Nurse?

I have always had an interest in oral hygiene and meticulously look after my own dental health.

I am eager to learn and gain more in-depth knowledge about topics I have already covered during my course and be a part of the health care system, providing patients with support and advice on how to look after their oral health.

I feel I already have certain knowledge and skills that would benefit me in this role, such as, communication and teamwork skills, attention to detail, having an empathetic and caring attitude.

Why the change in career/industry? – If relevant

I have worked in various positions which I have enjoyed, learnt valuable transferable skills and grown from. I have recently spent time travelling different parts of the world, embracing new

cultures and now I want to start building a career for myself. I understand the importance of oral hygiene and it is something I carefully practice myself. The dental industry is required worldwide and will always be an important part of a person's health care. I feel it is an invaluable skill to have and an industry I can see myself growing in.

Why do you want to work at this practice?

I can see on the practice website that they have a range of specialist treatments: orthodontics, oral surgery and periodontics. I would say this is a great learning opportunity for you, it is really difficult to find a practice offering these 3 specialisms under one roof.

I would also comment on the modern design and feel to it, and on the fact that the whole team looks so happy and friendly on all the photos – obviously it's their marketing strategy to use such photos, but still: who doesn't want to work at a practice full of happy, smiley co-workers?

SELF-AWARENESS

What are your top 3 strengths?

I am a fast learner who can easily adapt to certain environments and work well in a fast-paced environment, for example past experiments that were under timed conditions.

I can communicate well with my peers, and can problem solve if unexpected issues come about or am not afraid to ask for help if needed.

I have an empathetic and caring nature so I can create an approachable and friendly atmosphere not just in a working environment but my everyday life. I can also relate to feelings of anxiety and nerves when it comes to clinical environments, therefore I will be a benefit in offering comfort and support to patients.

What skills and qualities could you bring to this position?

I am a kind, compassionate person and can relate to feelings of anxiety and nerves when it comes to clinical environments. I feel this will benefit me in offering comfort and support to patients, particularly worried ones. Over the last few years, I have developed rapport building skills and I feel this would also be an advantage within this position. Building strong relationships with the patients may help to alleviate any anxiety they have about coming into the surgery. I also understand that a large part of a dental nurse's job is to provide administrative and receptionist support, something which I have previous experience and transferable skills in.

What are your weaknesses?

Here, the interviewer really wants to ask you 2 things:

What was your biggest mistake (professionally) and what did you learn from it?

The trick is to pick a real story where things really didn't go well, but not to raise a red flag. This is your opportunity to show your level of self-awareness (i.e. 'I'm not perfect but when I do make mistakes I can think back and establish what went wrong...') and commitment to improvement ('... and then use it as a point to improve – I have learnt from my mistakes and hence I became a better person/more experienced worker').

- Decision making can sometimes be difficult as I can hesitate and overthink the choice I am making, whether if its where to eat or what topic to revise first, but I know decision making is a big part of everyday life and have began improving this habit by applying for the course I am currently on and taking responsibility for that decision and the path I have decided to take.
- Organisation had been something I also struggles with as I found it especially difficult during college to balance all my subjects and the workload that had come with it which led to me completing work but not to the best of my ability. So, I made a planner that accounted for homework and revision of all my subjects so I didn't prioritise one over the other and could put equal efforts into both.

TELL ME A RECENT ACHIEVEMENT YOU ARE PROUD OF

Development of my patience and people skills as I have been tutoring some kids on maths where I needed to ensure they understood the questions and methods to the best of their ability while creating a friendly environment, so they were comfortable enough to ask for help or if they didn't understand and needed me to go over certain topics again.

BEHAVIOURAL QUESTIONS

Can you describe a time when you received feedback that was negative and what did you do about it?

During college, my biology teacher told me I am not putting enough revision into certain topics and my work was lacking in effort, so I emailed her a copy of my revision timetable and brought in revision notes I had made on the topic the next lesson which helped me improve in those topics that were lacking during practice exams.

Tell me about a time you were under pressure at the workplace. How did you handle it?

Although I haven't experienced pressure in a workplace, there were times during experiments where I was under pressure, for example, being assessed on the skills and ability to follow the rules, like following a procedure, where if you didn't follow them correctly you would fail that portion of Chemistry. I performed very well during those experiments, carefully reading instructions while ensuring they were completed within the time necessary.

How do you think other people would describe you?

That I'm relaxed under pressure. I'm usually the one to stay calm and think through a problem logically, even if things are a bit stressful.

Responsible and caring as I can admit when I am in the wrong and can easily detect when people are upset/ anxious about something.

What makes a good working relationship?

Communicating well and not being afraid to tell each other when they are in the wrong and listening to the criticism or if you need help/ advice.

Respecting one another and understanding each other's roles in the workplace.

Supporting each other when needed to work as a team.

COMMUNICATION

Give an example of how you've worked on a team:

During college, the starter activity in my maths class were group activities where you need to find the answer as a group, and they were very effective at showing individuals strengths and weaknesses and the benefits of working in a team because of the different skills and knowledge your peers have.

How do you deal with stressful situations/conflict at work?

I try to always have a calm and distanced approach. It is best to avoid conflicts altogether, but if there is conflict, I always try to resolve it in a friendly manner, making sure that both/all sides have had an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns and also an opportunity to propose solutions. Then it's important to agree on the best way forward. If I am mediator in a conflict, it is extremely important to listen to all the sides involved and not making judgements or taking sides in the conflict/become impartial. I believe that all conflicts should be resolved in a calm and professional manner as soon as possible - before they escalate to the next level, be it a disagreement between work colleagues or a complaint from a client

ASPIRATION

Where would you like to be in your career in 5 years?

I would like to be a qualified dental nurse continuing to grow and expand my skills and knowledge or whilst being a qualified dental nurse, complete a course to becoming an orthodontic therapist.

FURTHER CAREER GOALS

I have a strong desire to explore more potential routes in the dental industry such ...

It is important to show the employer that you are ambitious but just be careful here not to give them the impression that you might stay with them for a while (like until you qualify as a nurse) and then move on. By taking a trainee on board they are investing time and money

into training you and wouldn't want to think that you will leave them as soon as you get a chance (although this might well be the case and is absolutely fine to do , but the employer wants to think that once they take you on board they have their recruitment problem sorted for a good few years...).

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I mainly enjoy unwinding by painting or something art related as I find it very relaxing and calming as I can use my more creative side.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

Top 3 questions to ask at your interview.

1. If I wanted to develop my career would any assistance be given?
2. Will I get the opportunity to utilise my skills that I am learning on my course?
3. Would the practice support me with my ROE should I be successful?